

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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EA/ J FOR ERICSON

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR JA

SUBJ: SECURITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING

SUMMARY: FIRST GROUP MEETING WILL BE HELD APRIL 17.
FOCUS OF MEETING WILL BE ON PROCEDURES REGARDING GROUP
OPERATION, PREVIEW OF JDA BASE STUDY, AND RESUME OF
DIET BUDGET COMMITTEE DEBATE RELATING TO SECURITY
ISSUES. GOJ WOULD LIKE US PARTICIPANTS TO COMMENT ON
EFFECT OF CURRENCY ADJUSTMENTS ON SHORT- TERM US
MILITARY POSITION IN JAPAN. END SUMMARY.

1. ON MARCH 27 DCM AND ACTING POL/ MIL COUNSELOR MET
WITH DEPUTY VICE MINISTER TOGO, NORTH AMERICAN BUREAU
DIRECTOR- GENERAL OKAWARA AND SECURITY DIVISION CHIEF
MATSUDA TO DISCUSS PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR
SECURITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING SCHEDULED FOR
APRIL 17. ALL AGREED THAT GROUP SHOULD REMAIN
FLEXIBLE ON SCOPE AND TYPE OF SECURITY QUESTIONS
TO BE CONSIDERED (ALTHOUGH ULTIMATE PURPOSE OF
DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE TO FACILITATE SMOOTH AND
EFFECTIVE OPERATION OF SECURITY TREATY) AND FORMAT
IN WHICH QUESTIONS ARE CONSIDERED. AT FIRST, TOGO
INDICATED THAT GOJ CONSIDERS THAT MOST TOPICS WOULD
BE THOSE RELATED STRICTLY TO JAPAN. AFTER SOME
DISCUSSION, HOWEVER, GOJ OFFICIALS APPEARED TO UNDER-
STAND THAT GROUP MIGHT WELL HAVE TO DISCUSS BROADER
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(REGIONAL) SECURITY CONCERNS IN ORDER TO DEVELOP PERSPECTIVE AND UNDERSTAND RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN ISSUES FOR JAPAN AND REGIONAL SECURITY. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT GROUP SHOULD MAKE EFFORT TO AVOID DISCUSSING MATTERS EITHER SO PETTY AND DETAILED AS TO BE AMENABLE TO SOLUTION IN ESTABLISHED CHANNELS OR SO ABSTRACT AND PHILOSOPHICAL AS TO BE VIRTUALLY UNRELATED TO RESOLVABLE SECURITY ISSUES. ALL AGREED ALSO THAT STRENUOUS EFFORTS MUST BE MADE TO PRESERVE CONFIDENTIALITY OF DISCUSSIONS IF DISCUSSIONS ARE TO BE FRUITFUL EXCHANGES. GOJ REPS INDICATED, HOWEVER, BEST ASSURANCE OF CONFIDENTIALITY WOULD BE NOT ALLOWING PRESS TO KNOW THAT MEETING HAS TAKEN PLACE. MEETINGS OF GROUP WILL NOT OCCUR ON FIXED SCHEDULE AND CAN BE CONVENED BY EITHER SIDE ANY TIME. THERE WILL BE NO OFFICIAL MINUTES, AND ATMOSPHERE WILL BE KEPT AS INFORMAL AS POSSIBLE.

2. REGARDING SPECIFIC MATTERS FOR FIRST GROUP MEETING, GOJ SIDE OFFERED TO PROVIDE PREVIEW OF JDA BASE STUDY, WHICH GOJ INTENDS TO SUBMIT IN FULL AT SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING IN LATE MAY, AND RESUME OF DIET DEBATE DURING BUDGET COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS ON SECURITY MATTERS. GOJ SIDE WOULD LIKE THE US PARTICIPANTS AT GROUP MEETING TO DISCUSS, IF POSSIBLE, LIKELY IMPACT OF RECENT CURRENCY ADJUSTMENTS ON US FORCES' POSITION AND ACTIVITIES IN JAPAN (ESPECIALLY RESPECTING REDUCTIONS IN FORCE OF LOCAL EMPLOYEES). FURTHERMORE, GOJ WOULD LIKE TO HEAR ANY POSSIBLE DISCUSSION OF IMMEDIATE EFFECTS OF VIETNAM CEASE- FIRE ON US FORCES' ACTIVITY IN JAPAN (FOR EXAMPLE, REDUCTION OF LOGISTICAL ACTIVITIES RELATED TO VIETNAM CONFLICT).

3. DCM EMPHASIZED THAT WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR BOTH SIDES TO BEAR IN MIND THAT SOME DISCUSSIONS IN GROUP MEETINGS MIGHT REFLECT ONLY PERSONAL VIEWS OF DISCUSSANTS AND NOT REFLECT OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT POSITIONS AND THAT GROUP IS NOT DECISION- MAKING BODY. GOJ REPS INDICATED THEIR UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENT OF THAT CONCEPT.

4. EMBASSY AND COMUSJAPAN WILL CONSULT MARCH 28 ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE FIRST SCG MEETING AND WILL ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH SCOPE OF ANY US SIDE RESPONSE TO CURRENCY
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IMPACT AND POST- VIETNAM SITUATION, AS REQUESTED BY GOJ.

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